IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please insert the following titles between lines 2 and 3 on page 1 as follows:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

Please insert the following title between lines 8 and 9 on page 1 as follows

DISCUSSION OF THE BACKGROUND

Please insert the following title between lines 1 and 2 on page 2 as follows:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please delete the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 9 as follows:

~~This task is accomplished by an earpiece according to Claim 1 and/or according to Claim 5.~~

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 11 as follows:

With the earpiece according to the invention~~, in accordance with Claim 1~~, it is possible to keep the auditory canal open at the decisive points, to a degree that has not been achieved until now. The invention is based on the consideration that the sense of natural hearing, on the one hand, and the effectiveness of the hearing correction, on the other hand, are significantly influenced by the anatomically determined, natural resonance conditions in the auditory canal, including the external ear. Using the structure of the earpiece according to the invention, the natural resonance remains largely unaffected, even if the auditory canal is very narrow. In this connection, there are the additional advantages that the wearing comfort is extremely good (material-free region in the region of the crus helicis; no accumulation of heat), that the earpiece requires very little material and therefore also has cosmetic

advantages, and that acoustic coupling for influencing the frequency and the dynamics can take place more freely of complications.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 7 as follows:

The task stated above is accomplished in accordance with a second alternative ~~in accordance with Claim 5,~~ in that the earpiece is, for the first time, positioned at a location of the external ear that lies entirely outside of the cavum conchae. It has surprisingly been shown that when positioning the part of the earpiece that provides the hold in the cymba, it is easily possible, in interaction with the inherent stability of the flexible signal conductor or the sound tube, to precisely and reproducibly position the latter in the auditory canal, which is no longer blocked off by an earpiece component, according to the invention. In this way, this earpiece is particularly well suited, in addition to "open" standard applications, for applications in children with deafness in one ear, or, for example, for students with normal hearing but with a so-called reading/spelling weakness, in connection with so-called FM (frequency modulation) systems in which the teacher's speaking signal is fed into the auditory canal of the hearing-challenged child via a microphone and a microport system. Particularly in this case, utilization of the natural auditory canal resonance is very important, and this is achieved by the earpiece according to the invention, to a degree that has not been achieved until now. Because of the improved general conditions, it is furthermore easier to undertake acoustical coupling of the hearing device to the frequency and dynamics influencing system, so that the earpiece according to the invention is also well suited for use in media, e.g. during live television interviews, as a type of "in-ear monitoring," where in this case, a simultaneous translation, for example, or the voice signal of a prompter, are red into the auditory canal under the most natural conditions possible.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 15 as follows:

This embodiment~~, also~~, just like the first embodiment ~~according to Claim 1~~, has the advantage that it can be used without complications for specific special applications, such as a very narrow canal or a lot of hair at the end of the auditory canal, or other anomalies of the ear anatomy.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 20 as follows:

Further developments of the invention are ~~the object of the other dependent claims~~ described hereafter in the specification and claims.

Please insert the following title on page 4, between lines 21 and 22 as follows:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Please replace the paragraphs from page 4, line 25 to page 5, line 16 as follows:

Fig. 1[[:]] is a view of an ear and earpiece from the side, with the earpiece appearing according to the first embodiment inserted in it;

Fig. 2[[: cross-section]] is a cross-sectional view taken along line II-II in Fig. 1;

Fig. 3, and Fig. 4[[:]] on a larger scale, illustrate representations of an actual manufactured earpiece of the embodiment according to ~~Fig. 1,~~ Figs. 1 and 2;

Fig. 5[[:]] is a view of an earpiece placed in an external ear, according to the construction corresponding to the first embodiment;

Fig. 6[[:]] is a view of an ear from the side, with the earpiece according to the second embodiment inserted therein ~~in it~~;

Fig. 7[[: cross-section]] is cross-sectional view taken along line VII-VII in Fig. 6;

Fig. 8, and Fig. 9: on a larger scale, illustrate representations of an actual manufactured earpiece of the embodiment according to ~~Fig. 6,~~ Figs. 6 and 7;

Fig. 10[[:]] is an enlarged view of another embodiment of the earpiece, with a main body of a smaller size; and

Fig. 11[[:]] is a view of an earpiece according to Fig. 10, placed in an external ear;